Delay in launching of new PDS for People Below Poverty Line

*136. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any delay in launching the new scheme of PDS for people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons _herefore; and

(c) the names of the States which have not identified people below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and the detailed guidelines issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House. As per the guidelines, the State Governments/UTAdministrations are required to identify the beneficiaries living Below the Poverty Line, based on the provisional estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Port" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have accordingly been asked to identify the beneficiaries Below the Poverty Line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State/UT completes this exercise, it can start deriving the benefits under the Targeted PDS. The Scheme of Targeted PDS will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

Improving the functioning of Singareni Collieries

*137. SHRI V HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals being considered by Government to improve the functioning of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. In Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Govemment propose to infuse fresh capital;

(c) whether SCCL has made any request for fresh funding; and'

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of Singareni Collieries Ltd. (SCCL) are:—

(d) Deregulation of the price and distribution of 'D' grade of non-coking coal with immediate effect

(ii) Allowing SCCL to revise the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal till 1 January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the report submitted by BICP in 1987.

(iii) Allowing SCCL to fix the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal after 1 January, 2000 in relation with the market prices and distribute these grades of coal.

(b) Plan outlay of Rs. 502.75 crores is proposed for SCCL in 1997-98 to enable the company to achieve a production of 31 million
tenses. The Central Govt, proposes to provide budgetary support of Rs. 178.50 crores to SCCL in 1997 98.

© and (d) Budgetary support of Rs. 178.50
crores from Govt, of India to SCCL during 1997-98 has been worked out in consultation with the Planning Commission and SCCL.

Exploitation of coal deposits

*138. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reserves of coal that was estimated by the Geological Survey of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) whether exploration of coal deposits in any of the coalfield is being conducted; and

(c) if so, the details of progress/ achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Exploration for coal reserves in the country is carried out in two stages— 'Regional Exploration' and 'Detailed Exploration'.

Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes regional exploration for locating potential coal bearing areas in the country. Detailed exploration for the purpose of mine planning is carried out by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) for the command areas of Coal India Limited (CIL). Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) also undertakes detailed exploration for its command areas.

Details of reserves estimated by the GSI and detailed exploration carried out by CMPDIL and SCCL during the Eighth Five Year Plan period are as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

State	Regionally explored	Coalfields	Reserves proved/ indicated through detailed exploration
West Bengal	1997-15	Raniganj	1597
		Barjory	43
Bihar	1558.70	Jharia	1047
		East Bokaro	1738
		West Bokaro	513
		North Karanpura	1332
		South Karanpura	653
		Hutar	81
		Rajmahal	368
Madhya Pradesh	2464.86	Pathekhera	36
		Pench Kanhan	220
		Sohagpur	270
		Bisrampur	214
		Korba	422
		Umaria	79
		Mand-Raigarh	192
		Johilla	11
		Lakhanpur	93
		Hasdeo-Arand	681
		Sendurgarh	154
		Sonhat	35
		Singrauli	651
Orissa	2237.08	Talcher	3209
		lb-Valley	208
Andhra Pradesh'	63.73	Godavari Valley Coalfield	580
Maharashtra		Wardha VaUey	883
		Bander	69
		Nand	42
		Kamptee	112
Assam		Makum	146
Meghalaya		West Darangari	29

Introduction of New System of Marketing Prices on Packaged Commodities

*139. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govemment are considering a proposal to introduce a new system of marketing prices on packaged commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 require that retail sale price of a commodity sold in packaged form be printed thereon in the following format:
"Maximum or Max. retail price.....inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs.... incl., of all taxes." The MRP is the maximum price at which the package can be sold to the consumer. The actual sale price could be less than the MRP due to various factors. The Govemment is however considering the issue in consultation with concerned groups and organisations with a view to serve better the interests of consumers.

नई जाहिदो और क्षेत्रों को अनुसूचित जनजाति घोषित किया जाना किया जाना

*140.**श्री महेश्वर सिंहः** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

सरकारे के पास नई जातियों तथा क्षेत्रों को अनुसूचित जनजातीय घोषित करने संबंधी कितने-कितने